

# The BOYK BULLETIN

## Husband Fights To Have Safety Policies Updated After Losing His Wife



Lorri Riehm

On June 28, 2016, Paul Riehm gave his wife a kiss goodbye as she walked out the door to head over to Beaver Creek Reservoir for her regular walk. Paul fully expected to greet Lorri when she

walked back through the door of their home, later that day. Instead, Paul was met by someone else with news that shocked and devastated him.

Beaver Creek Reservoir is a designated public recreational area just outside of Clyde, Ohio. The 110 acre reservoir has about a one and a half mile walking trail located along the top of the embankment that surrounds it. Like many other people, Lorri would regularly go to the reservoir to exercise since it was scenic, safe, and free from traffic.

On June 28, 2016, volunteer firefighter Seth Knieriemen was at home when he received a call from the Green Springs Rural Volunteer Fire Department ("R.V.F.D.") that two fishermen had capsized their boat at the Beaver Creek Reservoir and needed assistance. Seth walked out the door of his home and headed to the station. Among the equipment the R.V.F.D. dispatched to the scene was a Ford F-350 pick-up ("Brush Truck") that it had previously modified and equipped for use with brush/field fires. However, the modifications the Department made completely eliminated the driver's rear view. R.V.F.D. also sent a rescue boat but had failed to insure it was properly fueled before it left the station. Once on scene, Mr.

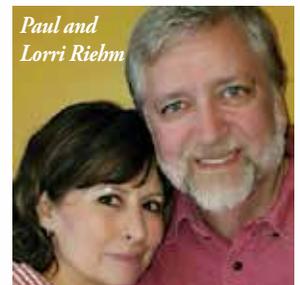
Knieriemen and others visually located the capsized boat on the opposite side of the reservoir. They launched the rescue boat and remained ashore while the water rescue members headed across the reservoir. Shortly thereafter, however, the water rescue team radioed that their rescue boat was out of fuel. Mr. Knieriemen and other R.V.F.D. members were directed to get fuel and take the Brush Truck up onto the walking trail on the embankment and drive it around to the other side of the reservoir where the rescue boat would paddle to shore if necessary.

Mr. Knieriemen and others got gas and took the Brush Truck up on the embankment and drove to where the rescue team was waiting. Unfortunately, not only had the R.V.F.D. members failed to insure the rescue boat was fueled, but they also brought the wrong fuel with them. After realizing this, Mr. Knieriemen and others had to take the Brush Truck back to the other side of the reservoir to get the proper fuel. In the meantime, the two boaters had been safely helped out of the water and placed in the care of Republic EMS members. After finding the correct fuel, Mr. Knieriemen and other R.V.F.D. members again drove on the embankment to the other side of the reservoir. The Brush Truck was parked and everyone exited it, including Mr. Knieriemen. Mr. Knieriemen proceeded to take the fuel down the embankment to the waiting boat to refuel it. During this time, Lorri, who had been walking along the narrow embankment path, came upon the parked and unoccupied Brush Truck, which was facing her. She walked around it. She walked past Mr. Knieriemen. She was in plain view of everyone.

Inexplicably, after Lorri had walked past the Brush Truck and returned to the walking path, Mr. Knieriemen returned to the truck, got in it, and without having any view behind the vehicle or taking measures to insure it was clear, he put it in reverse, and backed-up. Despite the screams of other R.V.F.D. members to stop, Mr. Knieriemen backed over Lorri, crushing and killing her. Mr. Knieriemen claims he didn't really even feel anything when he ran her over. He only stopped because other R.V.F.D. members were screaming for him to do so.

On January 28, 2016, Paul went to the door, expecting to see his wife returning. Instead, he was met by a Deputy with the news that his wife was killed and that he needed to come and identify her body. In the meantime, Mr. Knieriemen, as did other members of the R.V.F.D., walked back through the door of their respective homes. They offered no apologies and no condolences - only excuses.

When Paul sought answers he only found dead-ends. He sought the assistance of lawyers to help him, but was told there is nothing that can legally be done. Then he reached out to us. Paul shared with us what had occurred. He shared with us who Lorri was and what she did for her community. The heart of this firm broke for Paul and we decided to help him get answers and see that poli-



Paul and Lorri Riehm

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# TPS Proud Student of the Month



*William Tyas and Shane Kokensparger*

Rogers High teacher Shane Kokensparger nominated his student William Tyas for his extraordinary dedication to his education, despite having special needs and despite being moved around in the foster care system. William went home with a \$150 Visa gift card and the TPS Proud Student of the Month award.

“This student has bounced from foster home to foster home at the same time not missing school,” Shane said in his nomination. “When William comes to school he is neat, clean, well-mannered, and gives his very best. He is friendly to all and never rude. He is able to manage his daily functions with little directions. His trustworthiness is top notch. He has a great attitude and work ethic.”

The TPS Proud Student and Teacher of the Month contest is a joint effort between

Toledo Public Schools and Charles E. Boyk Law Offices, LLC. Each month, one teacher and one student from one of TPS’s high schools will be awarded with a \$150 Visa gift card. Stay tuned for winners from next month’s school, Toledo Technology Academy.



*Shane Kokensparger, TPS Transformational Leader Linda Meyers, William Tyas, and Rogers Principal Kelly Welch*

# PRETTY PAWS AT BOYK LAW



Boyk Law Litigation Paralegal Nancy Thomas and her French Bulldog Penny got in the Christmas spirit with matching sweaters on Ugly Sweater Day on December 22nd.

# CASES OF INTEREST: JANUARY 2017

## Dockworker Struck By Tugger Boat, Faces Surgery & Nerve Damage

Three weeks after our client was hit by a tugger boat, a blood clot developed at the site of injury. An MRI revealed the need for surgery but the Ohio Bureau of Worker’s Compensation refused to approve payment of the operation. Our client called Boyk Law and we were able to get approval for not only the surgery, but also for nerve problems that have resulted from the accident and affected her mobility, as well as approval for payments for the months that she was unable to work.

## Tenant Trips Over Metal Plate In Apartment Complex, Causes Fall & Need For Surgery

The day after our client tripped and fractured her elbow, her apartment complex removed the metal plate that was improperly installed over a threshold that caused her fall. She underwent surgery on her right elbow and right shoulder, and had to go to physical and occupational therapy for months, in addition to needing care from a home health nurse. Our client recently learned that her doctors now want her to face another round of physical therapy to help the healing process.

## Man Falls Through Rusty Gate Into Raw Sewage While On The Job

Our client fell down 15 to 20 feet into four feet of raw sewage and was stuck for over an hour, causing horrible wounds and a serious e. coli infection that penetrated his bone. The grate he was working on was found to be rusted and to have extensive corrosion that made it unsuitable and unsafe to have in place, which caused his fall in the first place. He was faced with months of wound care and a wound vac, along with the need for physical therapy for the injuries to his neck and back.



# How Is Your Credit Score Really Determined?

By Fred Boyk



**10% - Type of Credit.** It is best to have a variety of types of credit. For instance, three to five credit cards, a home loan, and a mortgage could maximize this factor which amounts to 10% of your credit score.

A large part of my legal practice involves bankruptcy. One of the regular questions clients ask me after my bankruptcy is: How do I build my credit score?

Whether you have filed bankruptcy or not, you need to first know how a credit score is calculated. Then you can do what is necessary to build up that score.

## Here's the breakdown:

**35% - History of Timely Payments.** The largest determiner of credit score is based on whether you paid your debts on time. Obviously the timelier your payments, the higher the credit score.

**30% - Outstanding Balances/Utilization.** The second largest determiner of credit score is a comparison of credit used to credit available. To maximize the score, do not use more than 30 percent of the limit on your credit cards or line of credit. Incidentally, new loans or new credit credits harm your score at first, but after six months of on-time payments, your credit score is raised.

**15% - Credit History.** The older your credit history, the higher your score is. This factor determines 15% of your credit score. Someone with 10 years of timely payments gets a higher score than a person with 10 months of paying on time.

**10% - Credit Inquiries.** A lot of creditors inquiring about you can negatively affect your score. These are called "hard" inquiries and determine 10% of your credit score. If you shop around for a car loan by going to five different banks who then make inquiries, your credit score decreases. If you check your credit score yourself, this is known as a "soft" inquiry and does not impact your score.

If you are facing an already-low credit score and debt that is increasingly difficult to get out from under, contact our office at 419-241-1395 and we would be happy to help provide you with options.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR FAVORITE CLIENT, MISTLETOE THE COLLIE!



Readers may remember Mistletoe "Missy" Arras from our February 2016 issue of the Boyk Bulletin where we told Missy's story of becoming a volunteer Pet Therapy dog after her owners, Joe and Cecilia, were injured in a horrible car accident on the way to adopt her. Joe, Cecilia, and Missy are all doing well and Boyk Law was so pleased to receive this photo in the Christmas card that was sent to our office. Thanks, Missy!

## RECIPE:

# Layla's Lemon Rice Soup with Chicken

*With temperatures in northwest Ohio dropping and springtime seeming so far away, this soup is sure to warm away the winter blues. Often served in traditional Greek restaurants and Coney Island diners, this soup is also often referred to as "Avgolemono".*

## INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups of chicken broth
- ½ cup of uncooked rice
- 2 lemons, juiced
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups of cooked, shredded chicken breast

## DIRECTIONS

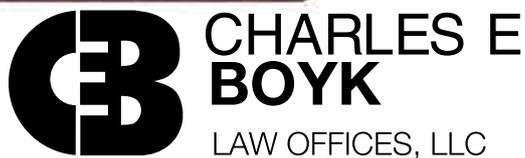
1. Bring broth to a boil in a large stockpot. Reduce heat to low and add the rice. Simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, then

remove from heat.

2. In a separate bowl, lightly whisk together the eggs and lemon juice. Slowly add the mixture to the warm broth, one tablespoon at a time, whisking constantly so the egg does not cook.

3. Add the cooked chicken and stir to warm through. Best served with oyster crackers.





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*Open it! Read it! Share it!*

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## January's Raving Fan of the Month

**"The staff was very attentive to my needs. The politeness of staff and promptness of returning phone calls in a timely manner was phenomenal. Everyone in the office always greets you with a smile, you can even hear them smiling when they answer the phone. It was a great experience to have such knowledgeable people work on my case."** – *Amy Karnes*



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or e-mail her at

marketing@charlesboyk-law.com

## Husband Fights To Have Safety Policies Updated After Losing His Wife *(Continued from page 1)*

cies and procedures are put in place to prevent this from ever happening again.

Our repeated efforts to respectfully reach out to R.V.F.D. to help Paul get some answers were disregarded. Our requests to R.V.F.D. (which is not a public entity, but a private corporation) to place us in contact with its liability insurance carrier were ignored. Regrettably, it left us with no option but to conduct our own investigation. What we found was a level of carelessness that permeated R.V.F.D. Despite being in the business of rescuing people, the manner in which they operated on June 28, 2016, placed people in danger. They compromised the rescue of the two boaters and the safety of pedestrians at the reservoir. Their carelessness killed Lorri.

"This completely senseless accident not only took the life of a woman dedicated to her community through children's ministries, it also shattered her family," Attorney Chuck Boyk, lawyer for the Riehm family, said.

"Despite seeking out what was supposed to be

a safe place to walk, her life was taken in a completely preventable incident that to this day the Green Springs fire department has yet to apologize for or even extend their condolences about."

Given R.V.F.D.'s refusal to respond or pace us in contact with their attorney or liability insurance carrier, we filed suit. Almost immediately after filing the suit, the Associated Press picked up the story, giving it nationwide news coverage. Our hope is that awareness of this tragedy brings about a re-evaluation of safety practices in fire departments everywhere and that policies and practices for the safe movement and backing up of apparatuses are stressed and/or implemented.

"This should have never happened and I do not want to see it happen to anyone else." Paul said. To view the full lawsuit and explanation of the case, visit our website, [www.Boyklaw.com](http://www.Boyklaw.com) and search "Lorri Riehm".

**Check out our newest book on construction accidents at [ohioconstructionbook.com](http://ohioconstructionbook.com)!**

